

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 May 2001 (10.05.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/32627 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C07D 231/12,
231/22, 231/26, 231/38, 401/04

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/29891

(22) International Filing Date: 27 October 2000 (27.10.2000)

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AU, BG, BR, BY, CA,
CN, CZ, EE, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, JP, KR, KZ, LT, LV, MX,
NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SG, SI, SK, SL, TR, UA, UZ, VN,
YU, ZA.

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/162,476 29 October 1999 (29.10.1999) US
60/192,651 28 March 2000 (28.03.2000) US

(84) Designated States (*regional*): European patent (AT, BE,
CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC,
NL, PT, SE).

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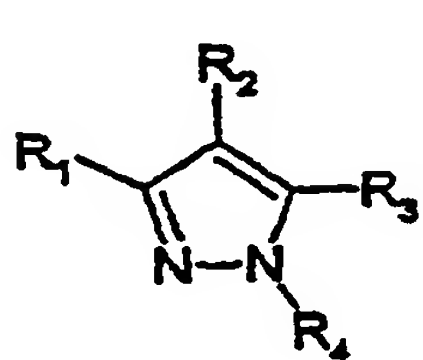
Published:

- With international search report.
- Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments.

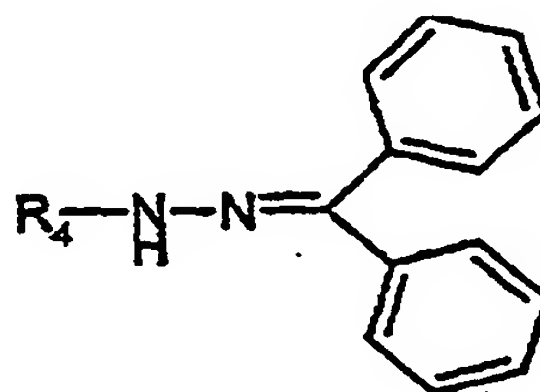
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

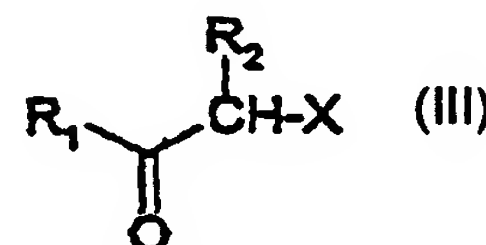
(54) Title: PROCESS OF MAKING SUBSTITUTED PYRAZOLES



(I)



(II)



(III)

(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a process of making substituted pyrazoles (I) from substituted benzophenone hydrazones (II) with a variety of 1,3-bifunctional substrates (III) under acid conditions. The pyrazole compounds are useful for making pharmaceutical compounds. In said formula, wherein X is chosen from -CN and -C(O)-R₃ wherein if X is CN then R₃ in the product formula (I) is amino.

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Process of Making Substituted Pyrazoles

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Related Application Data

This application claims benefit to US provisional application nos.
10 60/192,651 filed 3/28/2000 and 60/162,476 filed 10/29/1999.

Field of Invention

The present invention relates to novel synthesis of substituted aryl and
15 heteroaryl pyrazole compounds of the formula (I) described herein.

Background

20 The aryl and heteroaryl pyrazole structure is found in a large number and variety of compounds that possess important biological activities and pharmacological properties. Makino, K. et al. *J. Heterocyclic Chem.* **1998**, 35, 489; Elguero, J. *Compr. Heterocycl. Chem. II* **1996**, 3, 1. For example, WO 98/52558 and WO 99/23091 disclose heteroaryl urea compounds which are indicated to be useful in treating cytokine mediated
25 diseases. U.S. Pat. No. 5,162,360 discloses N-substituted aryl-N'-heterocyclic substituted urea compounds which are described as being useful for treating hypercholesterolemia and atherosclerosis.

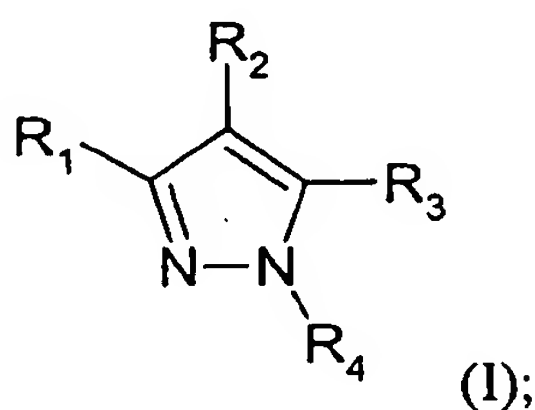
The synthesis of this important family of compounds is well reviewed. See Makino, K. et al. *supra*, Takagi, K. et al. *J. Heterocyclic Chem.* **1996**, 33, 1003; El-Rayyes, N. R. et al. *Synthesis* **1985**, 1028; Sammes, M. P. et al. *Advances in Heterocyclic Chemistry*, Vol 34, Academic Press, **1983**; Behr, L. C. et al. *The Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds*, Weissberger, A., ed., Interscience Publishers, John Wiley and Sons, **1967**.
The conventional approach for pyrazole synthesis is the condensation of an aryl
hydrazine with 1,3-diketones or their equivalents, such as β -ketoesters, β -cyanoketones
35 and others. However, aryl hydrazines have not been widely available by convenient, scalable chemistry. Buchwald and Hartwig have recently described a general and

practical synthesis of N-arylated benzophenone hydrazones. Buchwald, S. L. et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, *120*, 6621; Hartwig, J. F. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **1998**, *37*, 2090.

Unfortunately, their hydrolysis to N-aryl hydrazines has not been demonstrated. There is therefore a clear need for a synthesis of substituted pyrazoles which overcomes
5 limitations of well known syntheses.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention addresses the need in the art for a versatile new synthesis of
10 substituted pyrazoles of the formula (I):



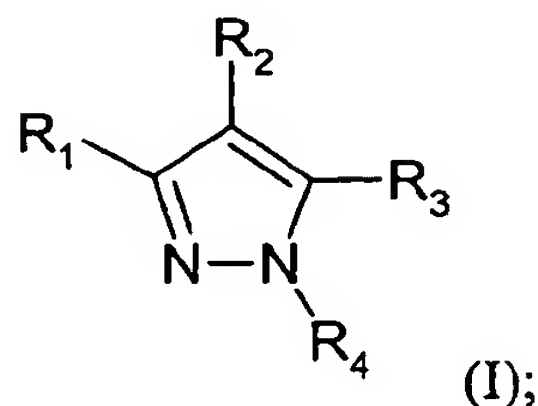
15 wherein R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are defined herein below, by providing for the first time a process of making a variety of pyrazoles from substituted benzophenone hydrazones with different 1,3-bifunctional groups.

Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments

20

In the present invention, it was postulated that upon treatment of such hydrazones with dicarbonyl compounds or related functionalities apparent to the skilled artisan, a transhydrazone reaction would take place^{3a}, leading eventually to pyrazole compounds of the formula (I). Such a synthesis will benefit from the demonstrated
25 palladium catalyzed cross couplings of benzophenone hydrazone to various aryl halides and overcomes limitations associated with the availability of aryl and heteroaryl hydrazines.⁴ The novel process of the invention also provides product compounds with a desirable high regio specificity as shown in schemes 1 – 4 below.

In one embodiment of the invention there is provided the process of making a pyrazole compound of the formula(I):



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are defined as follows:

each R₁ and R₃ are independently chosen from:
 amino and C₁₋₁₀ alkyl optionally partially or fully halogenated and optionally substituted with one to three C₃₋₁₀ cycloalkanyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thienyl, furyl, isoxazolyl or isothiazolyl; each of the aforementioned being optionally substituted with one to five groups chosen from halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl which is optionally partially or fully halogenated, C₃₋₈ cycloalkanyl, C₅₋₈ cycloalkenyl and C₁₋₃ alkoxy which is optionally partially or fully halogenated; wherein both R₁ and R₃ cannot simultaneously be amino;

R₂ is chosen from:

hydrogen, C₁₋₆ branched or unbranched alkyl optionally partially or fully halogenated and aryl optionally partially or fully halogenated;

R₄ is chosen from:

phenyl, naphthyl, morpholinyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, pyrrolidinyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, thienyl, furyl, tetrahydrofuryl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, indolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzofuranyl, benzoxazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, benzpyrazolyl, benzothiofuranyl, cinnolinyl, pterindinyl, phthalazinyl, naphthypyridinyl, quinoxalinyl, quinazolinyl, purinyl and indazolyl, each of the aforementioned is optionally substituted with one to three phenyl, naphthyl, heterocycle or heteroaryl as hereinabove described in

this paragraph, C₁₋₆ branched or unbranched alkyl which is optionally partially or fully halogenated, cyclopropanyl, cyclobutanyl, cyclopentanyl, cyclohexanyl, cycloheptanyl, bicyclopentanyl, bicyclohexanyl, bicycloheptanyl, phenyl C₁₋₅ alkyl, naphthyl C₁₋₅ alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, oxo, nitrile, C₁₋₃ alkoxy optionally partially or fully halogenated, phenyloxy, naphthyloxy, heteroaryloxy or heterocyclicoxy wherein the heterocyclic or heteroaryl moiety is as hereinabove described in this paragraph, nitro, phenylamino, naphthylamino, heteroaryl or heterocyclic amino wherein the heteroaryl or heterocyclic moiety is as hereinabove described in this paragraph, NH₂C(O), a mono- or di-(C₁₋₃alkyl) aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₅ alkyl-C(O)-C₁₋₄ alkyl, amino-C₁₋₅ alkyl, mono- or di-(C₁₋₃alkyl)amino-C₁₋₅ alkyl, amino-S(O)₂, di-(C₁₋₃alkyl)amino-S(O)₂, R₇-C₁₋₅ alkyl, R₈-C₁₋₅ alkoxy, R₉-C(O)-C₁₋₅ alkyl, R₁₀-C₁₋₅ alkyl(R₁₁)N or carboxy-mono- or di-(C₁₋₅alkyl)-amino;

a fused aryl chosen from benzocyclobutanyl, indanyl, indenyl, dihydronaphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, benzocycloheptanyl and benzocycloheptenyl, or a fused heteroaryl chosen from cyclopentenopyridinyl, cyclohexanopyridinyl, cyclopentanopyrimidinyl, cyclohexanopyrimidinyl, cyclopentanopyrazinyl, cyclohexanopyrazinyl, cyclopentanopyridazinyl, cyclohexanopyridazinyl, cyclopentanoquinolinyl, cyclohexanoquinolinyl, cyclopentanoisoquinolinyl, cyclohexanoisoquinolinyl, cyclopentanoindolyl, cyclohexanoindolyl, cyclopentanobenzimidazolyl, cyclohexanobenzimidazolyl, cyclopentanobenzoxazolyl, cyclohexanobenzoxazolyl, cyclopentanoimidazolyl, cyclohexanoimidazolyl, cyclopentanothienyl and cyclohexanothienyl; wherein the fused aryl or fused heteroaryl ring is independently substituted with zero to three phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thienyl, furyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl which is optionally partially or fully halogenated, halogen, nitrile, C₁₋₃ alkoxy which is optionally partially or fully halogenated, phenyloxy, naphthyloxy, heteroaryloxy or heterocyclicoxy wherein the heteroaryl or heterocyclic moiety is as hereinabove described in this paragraph, nitro, mono- or di-(C₁₋₃alkyl)amino, phenylamino, naphthylamino, heteroaryl or heterocyclic amino wherein the heteroaryl or heterocyclic moiety is as hereinabove described in this paragraph, NH₂C(O), mono- or di-(C₁₋

alkyl)aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₄ alkyl-OC(O), C₁₋₅ alkyl-C(O)-C₁₋₄ alkyl, amino-C₁₋₅ alkyl and mono- or di-(C₁₋₃)alkylamino-C₁₋₅ alkyl;

cyclopropanyl, cyclobutanyl, cyclopentanyl, cyclohexanyl, cycloheptanyl,
 5 bicyclopentanyl, bicyclohexanyl and bicycloheptanyl, each being optionally partially or fully halogenated and optionally substituted with one to three C₁₋₃ alkyl groups;

cyclopentenyl, cyclohexenyl, cyclohexadienyl, cycloheptenyl, cycloheptadienyl,
 bicyclohexenyl or bicycloheptenyl, each optionally substituted with one to three C₁₋₃ alkyl
 10 groups;

and

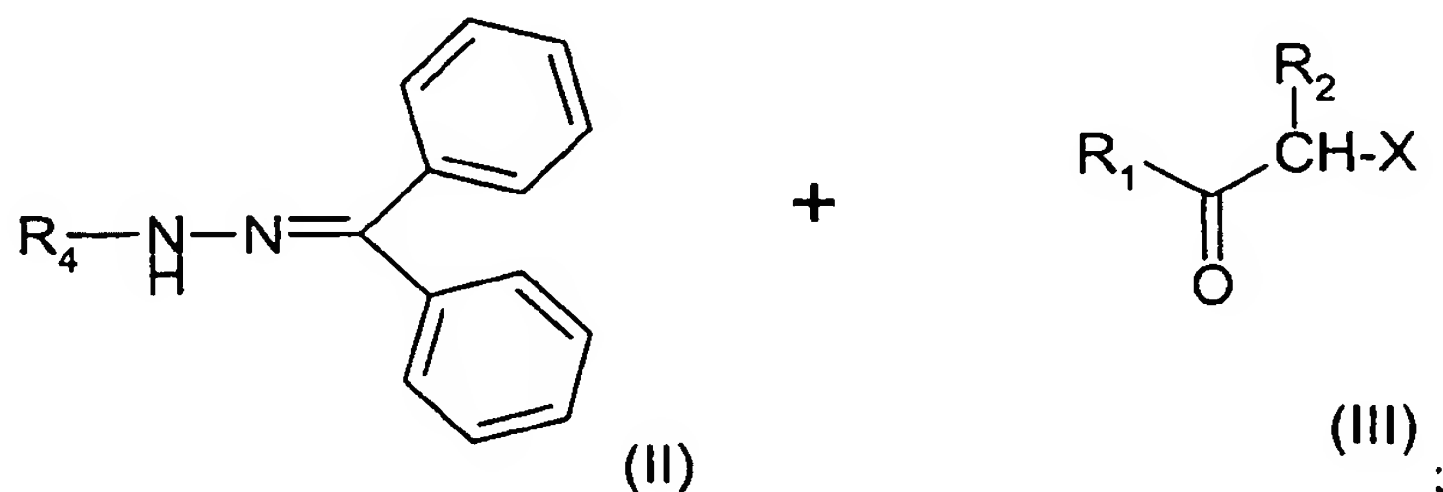
C₁₋₆ alkyl branched or unbranched and optionally partially or fully halogenated;

R₁₁ is chosen from hydrogen and C₁₋₄ branched or unbranched alkyl which may
 15 optionally be partially or fully halogenated;

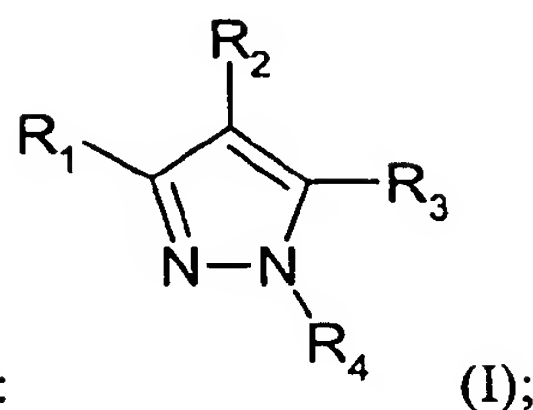
each R₇, R₈, R₉, R₁₀, is independently chosen from:
 morpholine, piperidine, piperazine, imidazole and tetrazole;

20 wherein said method comprises:

reacting a compound of the formula(II) with a compound of the formula(III) under acid
 25 pH conditions, in a polar protic solvent under reflux for 5-16 hours, according to the scheme below:



wherein X is chosen from -CN and -C(O)-R₃, wherein if X is CN then R₃ in the product formula (I) is amino;



5 to form the product compound of the formula(I):

and subsequently isolating said product.

10

In another embodiment of the invention there is provided a process as described above and wherein R₂ is H;

15 In another embodiment of the invention there is provided a process as described immediately above and wherein:

the acid is chosen from HCl, AcOH, TFA and p-TsOH;

20 the solvent is a C₁-C₃ alcohol;

R₁ and R₃ are chosen from
 amine, C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl,
 pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thienyl, furyl, isoxazolyl and isothiazolyl;
 each of the aforementioned being optionally substituted with one to three groups chosen
 25 from halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl and C₁₋₃ alkoxy; wherein when either R₁ or R₃ is amine the other
 is not amine;
 and

30 R₄ is chosen from:
 phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl and pyrazolyl,
 each of the aforementioned is optionally substituted with C₁₋₈ alkyl or C₁₋₆ branched or
 unbranched alkoxy each of which is optionally partially or fully halogenated.

In yet another embodiment, there is the process as described immediately above, and wherein

5 the acid is chosen from HCl and p-TsOH; the solvent is ethanol, the reflux time is 5-8 hours, R₃ is amino and

X is CN.

10

All terms as used herein in this specification, unless otherwise stated, shall be understood in their ordinary meaning as known in the art and be understood to be optionally substituted. For example, "alkoxy" is a alkyl with a terminal oxygen, such as
15 methoxy, ethoxy and propoxy. All alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups shall be understood as being branched or unbranched where structurally possible and unless otherwise specified. Other more specific definitions are as follows:

The term "aroyl" as used in the present specification shall be understood to mean "benzoyl" or "naphthoyl".

20

The term "heterocycle" refers to a stable nonaromatic 4-8 membered (but preferably, 5 or 6 membered) monocyclic or nonaromatic 8-11 membered bicyclic heterocycle radical which may be either saturated or unsaturated. Each heterocycle consists of carbon atoms and one or more, preferably from 1 to 4 heteroatoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur. The heterocycle may be attached by any atom of the
25 cycle, which results in the creation of a stable structure. Examples of heterocycles include but are not limited to, oxetanyl, pyrrolidinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydrothiophenyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, dioxanyl, tetramethylene sulfonyl, tetramethylene sulfoxidyl, oxazolinyl, thiazolinyl, imidazolinyl, tetrahydropyridinyl, homopiperidinyl, pyrrolinyl, tetrahydropyrimidinyl,
30 decahydroquinolinyl, decahydroisoquinolinyl, thiomorpholinyl, thiazolidinyl, dihydrooxazinyl, dihydropyranyl, oxocanyl, heptacanyl, thioxanyl and dithianyl.

35

The term "heteroaryl" shall be understood to mean an aromatic 5-8 membered monocyclic or 8-11 membered bicyclic ring containing 1-4 heteroatoms such as N, O and S. Examples of such heteroaryls include: pyridinyl, pyridonyl, quinolinyl,
35 dihydroquinolinyl, tetrahydroquinoyl, isoquinolinyl, tetrahydroisoquinoyl, pyridazinyl,

pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, benzimidazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiophenyl, benzpyrazolyl, dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzothiophenyl, benzooxazolonyl, benzo[1,4]oxazin-3-onyl, benzodioxolyl, benzo[1,3]dioxol-2-onyl, tetrahydrobenzopyranyl, indolyl, indolinyl, indolonyl, indolinonyl and phthalimidyl.

5 The term "aryl" as used herein shall be understood to mean phenyl, tolyl or naphthyl.

Terms which are analogs of the above cyclic moieties such as aryloxy or heteroaryl amine shall be understood to mean an aryl, heteroaryl and heterocycle as defined above attached to its respective functional group.

10 As used herein, "nitrogen" and "sulfur" include any oxidized form of nitrogen and sulfur and the quaternized form of any basic nitrogen.

The term "halogen" as used in the present specification shall be understood to mean bromine, chlorine, fluorine or iodine.

ETOH shall be understood to mean ethanol.

15 p-TsOH is para-toluenesulphonic acid.

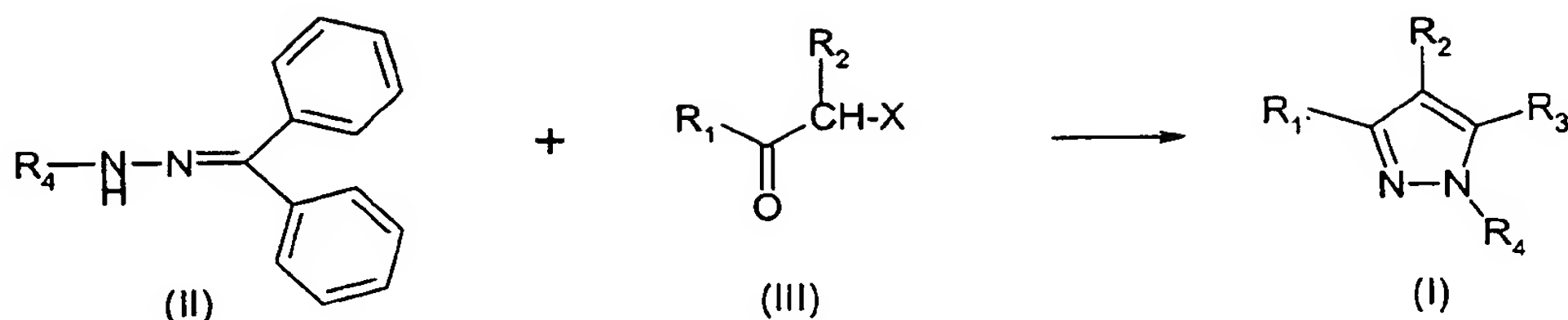
TFA is trifluoroacetic acid.

AcOH is acetic acid.

DPPF is diphenylphosphinoferrocene.

20 The method of the invention is directed to only making compounds which are contemplated to be 'chemically stable' as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art. For example, a compound which would have a 'dangling valency', or a 'carbanion' are not compounds contemplated by the invention.

25 The general reaction scheme describing this invention is illustrated below. A benzophenone hydrazone of formula (II) is reacted with a 1,3-bifunctional intermediate of formula (III) under acid pH conditions, in a polar protic solvent for about 5-16 hours, where X is a carbonyl bearing R_3 ($-C(O)R_3$), or a nitrile ($-CN$), in which case R_3 will be an amine (NH_2) in the product of formula (I). Regarding preferred reaction time, 5-8 hours is preferred where X is $-C(O)R_3$ and 8-16 hours where X is CN. R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and
30 X are as defined hereinabove:

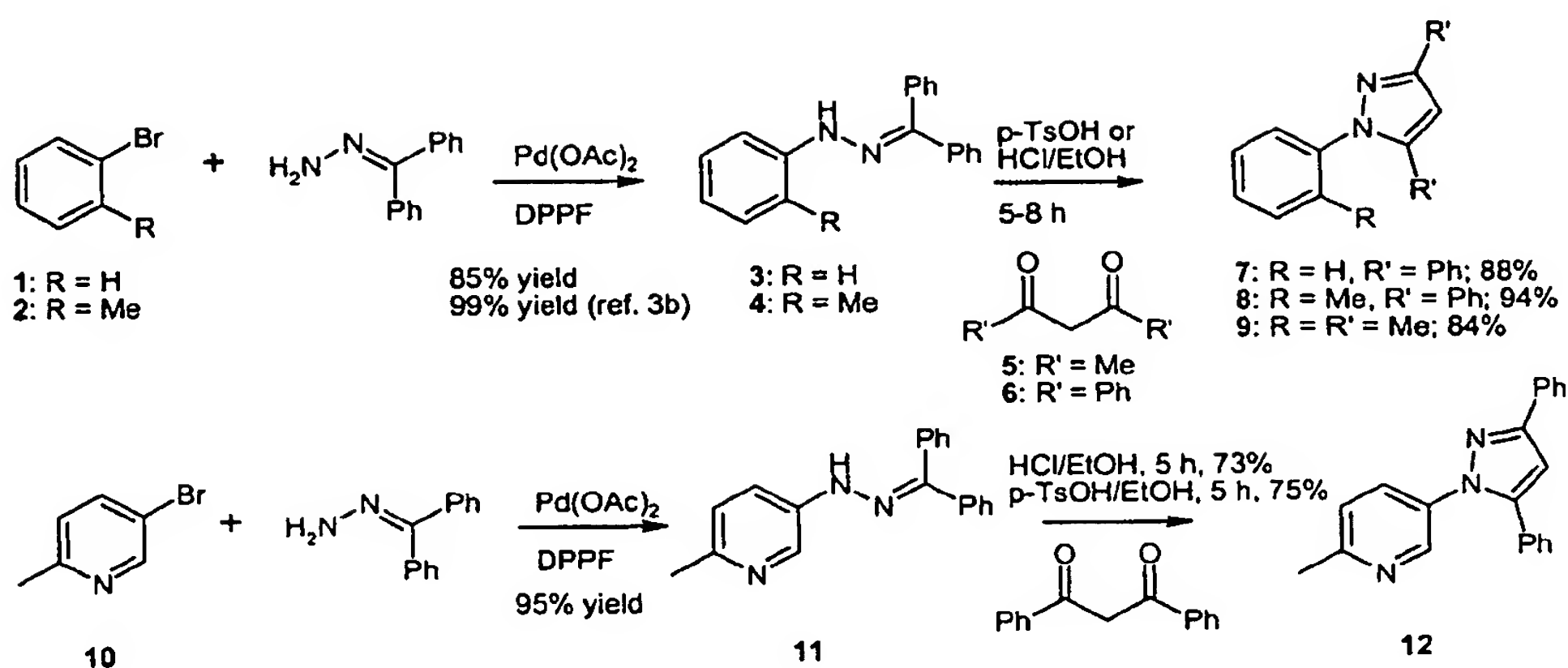


In one embodiment of the invention, the different acidic conditions can be
 5 obtained with acids chosen from: HCl, AcOH, TFA and p-TsOH. In yet another
 embodiment desirable yields are obtained by using p-TsOH or HCl in ethanol.

Schemes 1,2,3 and 4 represent specific aspects of the invention. These schemes
 are illustrative and, as recognized by one skilled in the art, particular reagents or
 conditions could be modified as needed for individual compounds without undue
 10 experimentation. Starting materials used in the schemes below are either commercially
 available or easily prepared from commercially available materials by those skilled in the
 art. Isolation and purification methods for particular compounds will be apparent to those
 of ordinary skill, a non-limiting example of which is provided in Example 1 below.

Aryl hydrazones 3, 4 and 11 were prepared by Pd-catalyzed cross-coupling of the
 15 corresponding aryl bromide with benzophenone hydrazone, following the recently
 reported procedure by Hartwig.^{3b} The hydrazones were obtained in 85-99% yields. See
 Scheme 1 below.

Scheme 1

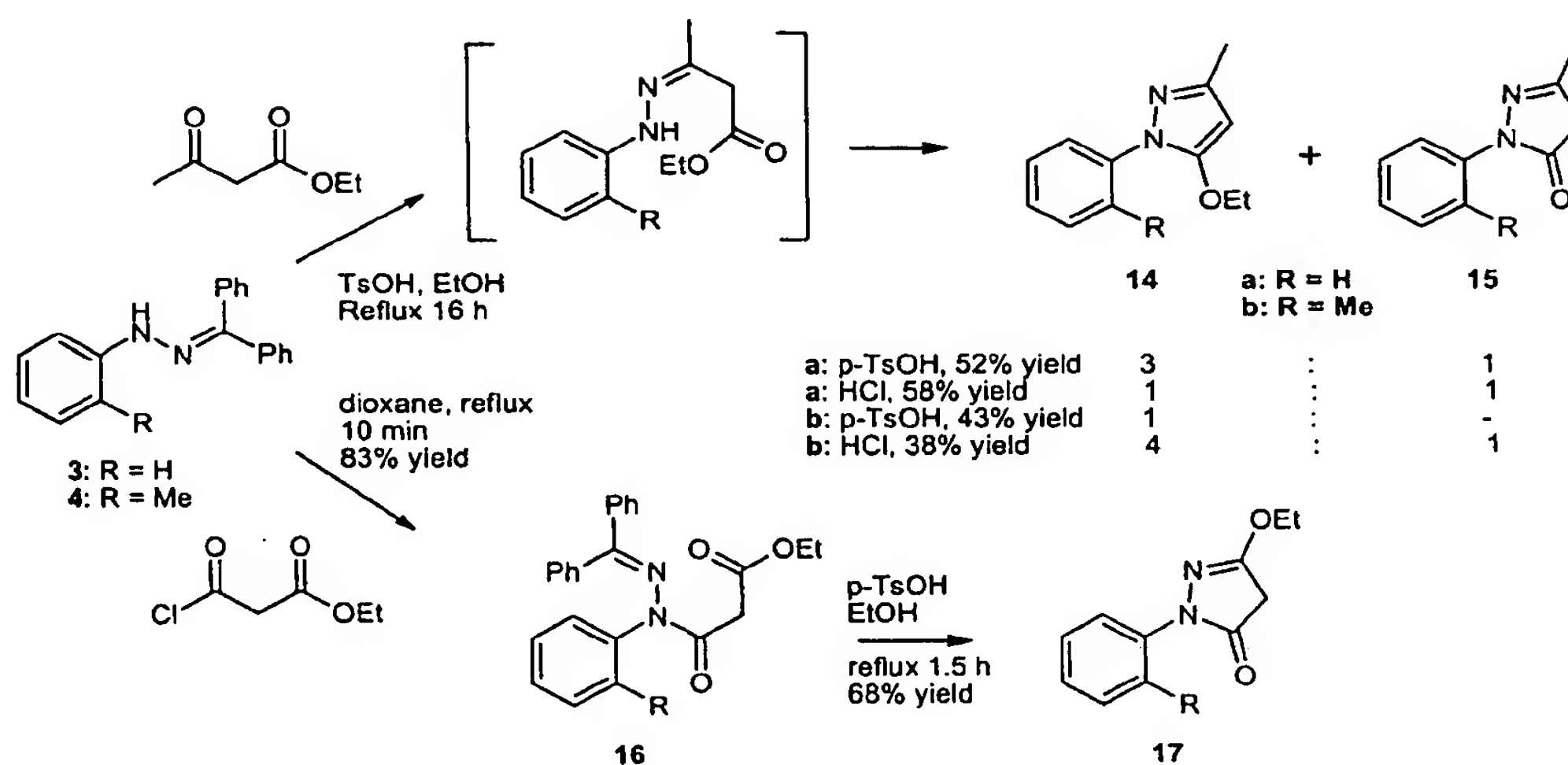


The synthesis of pyrazoles is accomplished by refluxing hydrazones 3, 4 and 11 (shown below) with symmetrical 1,3-diketones 5 and 6 in ethanol under acidic conditions. Pyrazoles 8, 9 and 12 were prepared in 75-94% isolated yields using p-TsOH. Similar yields were obtained in preparing pyrazoles 7 and 12 under HCl/EtOH conditions.⁵

The results with symmetrical diketones prompted examination of the regioselective synthesis of unsymmetrical pyrazoles or pyrazole-related structures from aryl hydrazones 3 and 4. As illustrated in Scheme 2 treatment of 3 with ethyl acetoacetate, under p-TsOH/EtOH conditions, has provided pyrazoles 14 and pyrazolone 15 in 3:1 ratio respectively and 52% isolated yield. See Example 1. Interestingly, replacing p-TsOH with HCl provided 14a and 15a in 1:1 ratio and 58% yield. The stability of 14a and 15a under the p-TsOH and HCl reaction conditions was examined and no interconversion was detected in both compounds. On the other hand, a single product (14b) was formed in 41% yield upon treatment of 4 with p-TsOH and a 4:1 ratio of 14b:15b was obtained in 38% yield under the HCl conditions.

Synthesis of pyrazolones 17 was accomplished by treatment of 3 or 4 with ethyl malonyl chloride in refluxing dioxane, affording after 10 min the corresponding compound 16 in 80-83% isolated yield. Subsequent cyclization of 16 in p-TsOH/EtOH afforded, after 1.5 h, pyrazolones 17 in 68-70% yield. The ¹H-NMR of compound 17a is in full agreement with previously reported data.⁵

Scheme 2



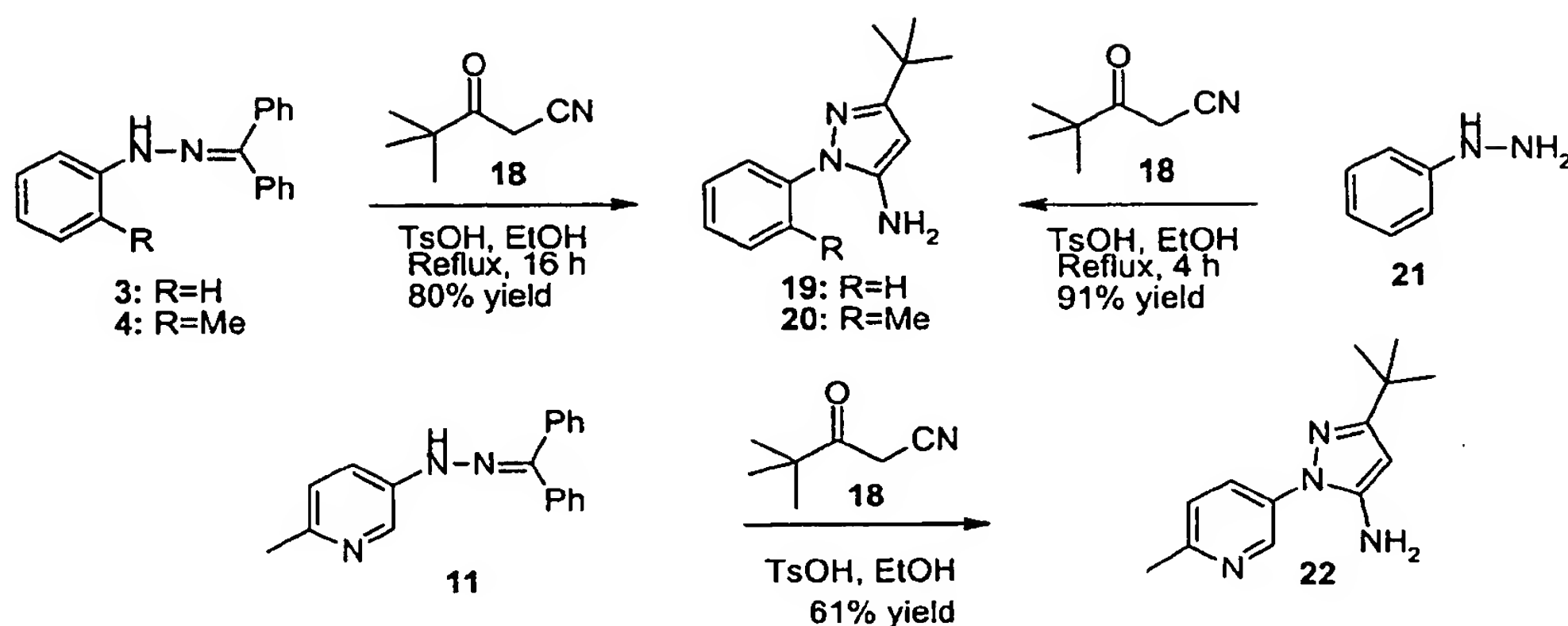
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Preparation of pyrazole amines was expected to be possible by treating hydrazones with cyanoketone **18** under acidic conditions as illustrated in Scheme 3. Similar selectivity in the transhydrazoneation to that obtained with β -ketoesters should provide pyrazole amines of type **19**. Treatment of aryl hydrazones **3** and **4** with **18** afforded single products **19** and **20** respectively in 80% isolated yields. The structure of **19** was confirmed by its preparation from hydrazine **21** with cyanoketone **18** under similar reaction conditions. The utility of the cross coupling-pyrazole formation sequence was further demonstrated in the synthesis of heteroaryl pyrazole **22** in 61% yield.

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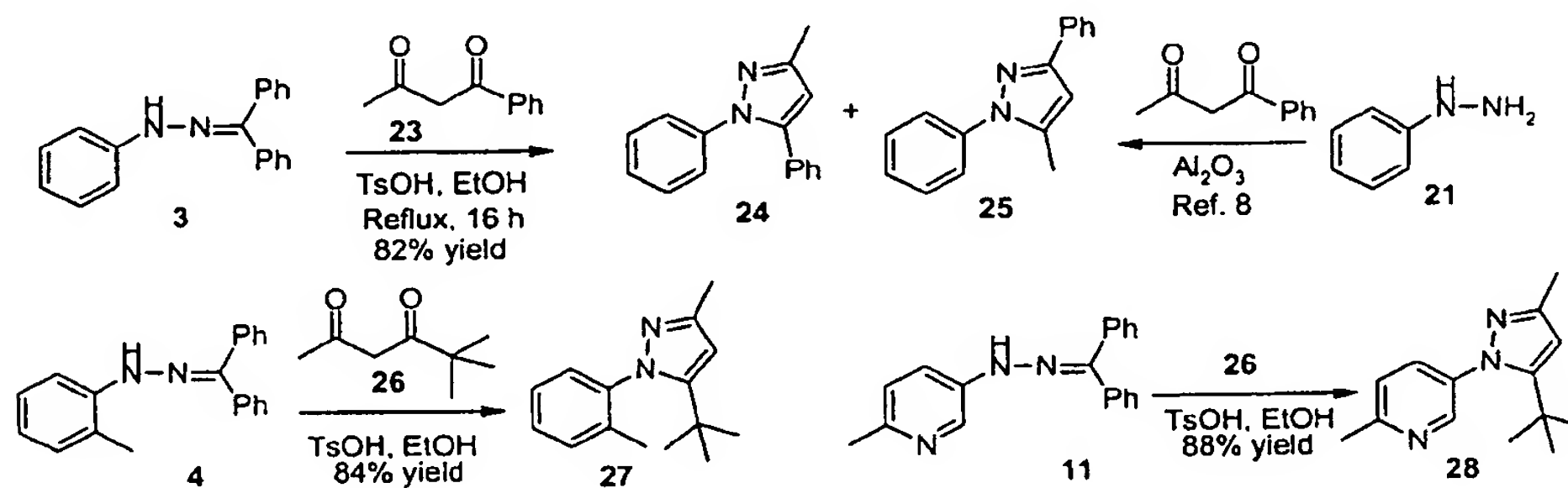
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Scheme 3



In order to examine the regioselectivity of pyrazole formation with unsymmetrical diketones, hydrazone 3 was treated with diketone 23 under conditions according to the invention. See Scheme 4 and Example 1. A mixture of isomers 24 and 25 was obtained in 7:1 ratio respectively in 82% total yield. It should be noted that 19:1 ratio of 24 vs. 25 respectively, was reported⁶ on their formation from hydrazine 21 and diketone 23. High regioselectivity was expected in the pyrazole formation of diketone 26. Indeed, single products 27 and 28 were obtained upon its reaction under the p- TsOH/EtOH conditions with hydrazones 4 and 11 in 84% and 88% yields respectively.⁷

Scheme 4



In order that this invention be more fully understood, the following examples 1(a) and (b) are set forth. These examples are for the purpose of illustrating embodiments of

this invention, and are not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention in any way.

EXAMPLE 1

5 1(a) with p-TsOH/EtOH: A solution of the benzophenone hydrazone (1.75 mmol), p-TsOH (1.0 g) and the bi-functional substrate (2.63 mmol) in EtOH (10 mL) was refluxed for a period of 8-16 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to RT, then NaHCO₃ saturated solution (10 mL) and EtOAc (10 mL) were added. The layers were separated, and the
10 aqueous layer washed with EtOAc. The combined organics dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated then purified by column chromatography.

1(b) with HCl/EtOH: The reactions were carried out in a saturated solution of HCl in EtOH with a similar ratio of reactants and concentration as described in (a). Excess
15 saturated NaHCO₃ was added to ensure complete neutralization of the HCl.

All new compounds were characterized by full spectroscopic data, yields refer to chromatographed materials with purity of > 95%. Selected ¹H-NMR data from **14a**: δ 5.47 (1H, s), 4.12 (2H, q), 2.28 (3H, s), 1.43 (3H, t); **14a** (literature^a): δ 5.50 (1H, s), 4.14
20 (2H, q), 2.26 (3H, s), 1.41 (3H, t); **14b**: δ 5.44 (1H, s), 4.07 (2H, q), 2.26 (3H, s), 1.33 (3H, t). (a) Katritzky, A. R.; Main, F. W. *Tetrahedron* **1964**, *20*, 299; ¹H-NMR of **15a** found in full agreement with reported data: DeRuiter, J.; Carter, D. A.; Arledge, W. S.; Sullivan, P. J. *J. Heterocyclic Chem.* **1987**, *24*, 149.

25

30

TABLE 1

The following compounds were prepared using methods similar to Examples 1(a) and (b).

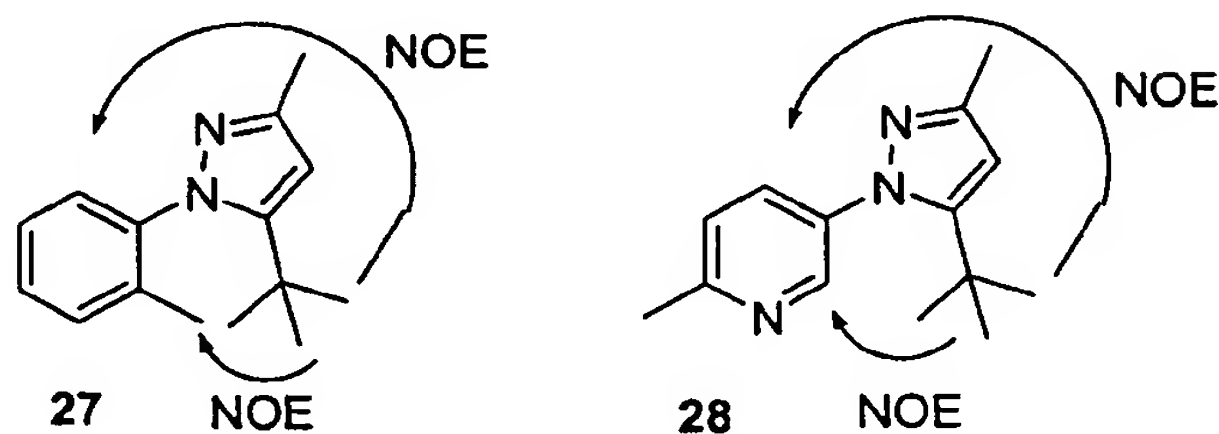
| 5 | R ₁ | R ₂ | R ₃ | R ₄ |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Phenyl | H | NH ₂ | 2-methylphenyl |
| | methyl | H | methyl | 2-methylphenyl |
| | methyl | Methyl | methyl | 2-methylphenyl |
| | methyl | Benzyl | methyl | 2-methylphenyl |
| | methyl | Phenyl | NH ₂ | 2-methylphenyl |

10 References and Notes

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4. For palladium catalyzed coupling of t-butylcarbazate with *activated* aryl bromides see: Wang, Z.; Skerlj, R. T.; Bridger, G. J. *Tet. Lett.* **1999**, *40*, 3543.
- 25 5. Selected ¹H-NMR data from **17a**: δ 4.35 (2H, q), 3.48 (1H, s); **17a** (literature^{7a}): δ 4.34 (2H, q), 3.47 (1H, s); **17b**: δ 4.27 (2H, q), 3.46 (1H, s); (a) Molinari, A.; Oliva, A. *J. Heterocyclic Chem.* **1996**, *33*, 479.

6. Texier-Boullet, F.; Klein, B.; Hamelin, J. *Synthesis* **1986**, 409.
7. The regioselectivity in structures **27** and **28** were confirmed by the NOE between the t-butyl with the N-aryl substituent, determined by NOESY.

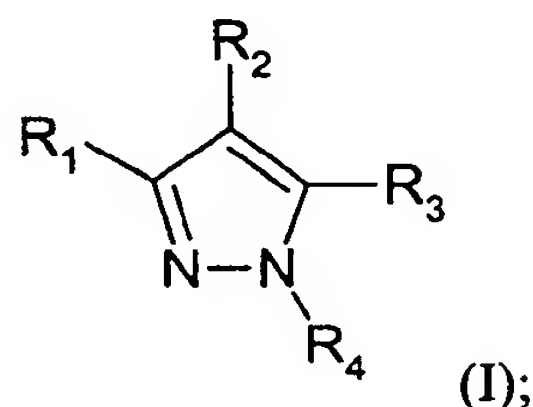
5



All references cited in this application are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of making a pyrazole compound of the formula(I):



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are defined as follows:

each R_1 and R_3 are independently chosen from:

amino and C_{1-10} alkyl optionally partially or fully halogenated and optionally substituted with one to three C_{3-10} cycloalkanyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thienyl, furyl, isoxazolyl or isothiazolyl; each of the aforementioned being optionally substituted with one to five groups chosen from halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl which is optionally partially or fully halogenated, C_{3-8} cycloalkanyl, C_{5-8} cycloalkenyl and C_{1-3} alkoxy which is optionally partially or fully halogenated; wherein both R_1 and R_3 cannot simultaneously be amino;

R_2 is chosen from:

hydrogen, C_{1-6} branched or unbranched alkyl optionally partially or fully halogenated and aryl optionally partially or fully halogenated;

R_4 is chosen from:

phenyl, naphthyl, morpholinyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, pyrrolidinyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, thienyl, furyl, tetrahydrofuryl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, indolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzofuranyl, benzoxazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, benzpyrazolyl, benzothiofuranyl, cinnolinyl, pterindinyl, phthalazinyl, naphthypyridinyl, quinoxalinyl, quinazolinyl, purinyl and indazolyl, each of the aforementioned is optionally substituted

with one to three phenyl, naphthyl, heterocycle or heteroaryl as hereinabove described in this paragraph, C₁₋₆ branched or unbranched alkyl which is optionally partially or fully halogenated, cyclopropanyl, cyclobutanyl, cyclopentanyl, cyclohexanyl, cycloheptanyl, bicyclopentanyl, bicyclohexanyl, bicycloheptanyl, phenyl C₁₋₅ alkyl, naphthyl C₁₋₅ alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, oxo, nitrile, C₁₋₃ alkoxy optionally partially or fully halogenated, phenyloxy, naphthyloxy, heteroaryloxy or heterocyclicoxy wherein the heterocyclic or heteroaryl moiety is as hereinabove described in this paragraph, nitro, phenylamino, naphthylamino, heteroaryl or heterocyclic amino wherein the heteroaryl or heterocyclic moiety is as hereinabove described in this paragraph, NH₂C(O), a mono- or di-(C₁₋₃alkyl) aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₅ alkyl-C(O)-C₁₋₄ alkyl, amino-C₁₋₅ alkyl, mono- or di-(C₁₋₃alkyl)amino-C₁₋₅ alkyl, amino-S(O)₂, di-(C₁₋₃alkyl)amino-S(O)₂, R₇-C₁₋₅ alkyl, R₈-C₁₋₅ alkoxy, R₉-C(O)-C₁₋₅ alkyl, R₁₀-C₁₋₅ alkyl(R₁₁)N or carboxy-mono- or di-(C₁₋₅alkyl)-amino;

a fused aryl chosen from benzocyclobutanyl, indanyl, indenyl, dihydronaphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, benzocycloheptanyl and benzocycloheptenyl, or a fused heteroaryl chosen from cyclopentenopyridinyl, cyclohexanopyridinyl, cyclopentanopyrimidinyl, cyclohexanopyrimidinyl, cyclopentanopyrazinyl, cyclohexanopyrazinyl, cyclopentanopyridazinyl, cyclohexanopyridazinyl, cyclopentanoquinolinyl, cyclohexanoquinolinyl, cyclopentanoisoquinolinyl, cyclohexanoisoquinolinyl, cyclopentanoindolyl, cyclohexanoindolyl, cyclopentanobenzimidazolyl, cyclohexanobenzimidazolyl, cyclopentanobenzoxazolyl, cyclohexanobenzoxazolyl, cyclopentanoimidazolyl, cyclohexanoimidazolyl, cyclopentanothienyl and cyclohexanothienyl; wherein the fused aryl or fused heteroaryl ring is independently substituted with zero to three phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thienyl, furyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl which is optionally partially or fully halogenated, halogen, nitrile, C₁₋₃ alkoxy which is optionally partially or fully halogenated, phenyloxy, naphthyloxy, heteroaryloxy or heterocyclicoxy wherein the heteroaryl or heterocyclic moiety is as hereinabove described in this paragraph, nitro, mono- or di-(C₁₋₃alkyl)amino, phenylamino, naphthylamino, heteroaryl or heterocyclic amino wherein the heteroaryl or heterocyclic

moiety is as hereinabove described in this paragraph, $\text{NH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})$, mono- or di- $(\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl})\text{aminocarbonyl}$, $\text{C}_{1-4}\text{ alkyl-OC}(\text{O})$, $\text{C}_{1-5}\text{ alkyl-C}(\text{O})\text{-C}_{1-4}\text{ alkyl}$, amino- $\text{C}_{1-5}\text{ alkyl}$ and mono- or di- $(\text{C}_{1-3})\text{alkylamino-C}_{1-5}\text{ alkyl}$;

5 cyclopropanyl, cyclobutanyl, cyclopentanyl, cyclohexanyl, cycloheptanyl, bicyclopentanyl, bicyclohexanyl and bicycloheptanyl, each being optionally partially or fully halogenated and optionally substituted with one to three C_{1-3} alkyl groups;

cyclopentenyl, cyclohexenyl, cyclohexadienyl, cycloheptenyl, cycloheptadienyl,
10 bicyclohexenyl and bicycloheptenyl, each optionally substituted with one to three C_{1-3} alkyl groups;
and

C_{1-6} alkyl branched or unbranched and optionally partially or fully halogenated;

15 R_{11} is chosen from hydrogen and C_{1-4} branched or unbranched alkyl which may optionally be partially or fully halogenated;

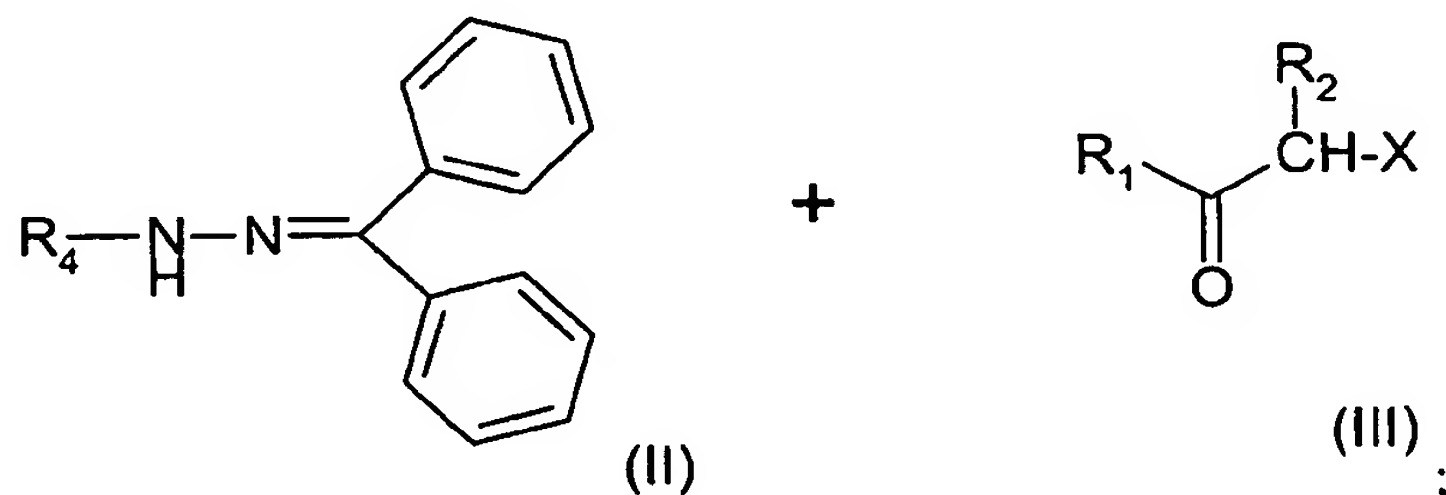
each R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} , is independently chosen from:

morpholine, piperidine, piperazine, imidazole and tetrazole;

20

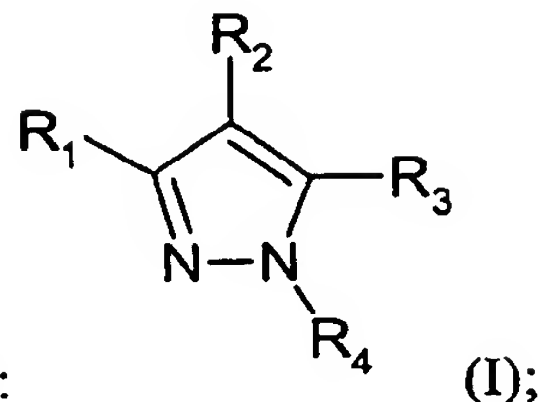
wherein said method comprises:

reacting a compound of the formula(II) with a compound of the formula(III) under acid
25 pH conditions, in a polar protic solvent under reflux for 5-16 hours, according to the scheme below:



wherein X is chosen from $-\text{CN}$ and $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{R}_3$, wherein if X is CN then R_3 in the product formula (I) is amino;

5



to form the product compound of the formula(I):

10 and subsequently isolating said product.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein

15

R_2 is hydrogen.

20 3. The process according to claim 2, wherein

the acid is chosen from HCl, AcOH, TFA and p-TsOH;

the solvent is a C_1 - C_3 alcohol;

25

R_1 and R_3 are chosen from

amino, C_{1-10} alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thienyl, furyl, isoxazolyl and isothiazolyl;

each of the aforementioned being optionally substituted with one to three groups chosen

30

from halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-3} alkoxy; wherein when either R_1 or R_3 is amine the other is not amino;

and

35

R_4 is chosen from:

phenyl, naphthyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl and pyrazolyl, each of the aforementioned is optionally substituted with C₁₋₈ alkyl or C₁₋₆ branched or unbranched alkoxy each of which is optionally partially or fully halogenated.

5

4. The process according to claim 3 wherein:

the acid is chosen from HCl and p-TsOH;

10

the solvent is ethanol,

the reflux time is 5-8 hours;

15

R₃ is amino and

X is CN.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 00/29891

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C07D231/12 C07D231/22 C07D231/26 C07D231/38 C07D401/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C07D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, CHEM ABS Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| A | US 5 616 723 A (MUHR JUERGEN ET AL) 1 April 1997 (1997-04-01) claims; examples --- | 1-4 |
| A | US 5 969 153 A (MAO MICHAEL K ET AL) 19 October 1999 (1999-10-19) claims --- | 1-4 |
| A | WO 99 23091 A (BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM PHARMA) 14 May 1999 (1999-05-14) cited in the application page 53; example 2 --- -/-- | 1-4 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *g* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 February 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

16/03/2001

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intc ional Application No
PCT/US 00/29891

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| A | <p>LEE K J ET AL: "SYNTHESIS OF PYRAZOLO-FUSED HETEROCYCLES BY A TANDEM APPEL'S DEHYDRATION/ELECTROCYCLIZATION METHODOLOGY" JOURNAL OF HETEROCYCLIC CHEMISTRY, HETEROCORPORATION. PROVO, US, vol. 34, no. 6, November 1997 (1997-11), pages 1795-1799, XP000943029 ISSN: 0022-152X see Scheme IV and V page 1796</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----</p> | 1-4 |
| A | <p>SEBLE WAGAW ET AL:: "Palladium-catalyzed Strategy for the Preparation of Indoles: A Novel Entry into the Fisher Indole Synthesis" JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, WASHINGTON, DC, US, vol. 120, no. 26, 1998, pages 6621-6622, XP000983304 ISSN: 0002-7863 the whole document</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> | 1-4 |

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/29891

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| WO 9923091 A | 14-05-1999 | AU 1367599 A EP 1028953 A | 24-05-1999 23-08-2000 |